



Immaculate Conception

V A N C O U V E R

Today, I will grow in knowledge, love of God and service to others.

Annual Report

2015/2016



Note from the Pastor

The Lord give you Peace!

This year (as always) I was deeply moved to see how well our Immaculate Conception Parish School families *Celebrate* together. How a Community comes together in celebration is a wonderful measure of the vitality of *Soul* within a Community. Just think about our Confirmation Celebration, the Chow and Cha Cha for Parents and our First Communion Celebration. (And we all know that this is the short list of Celebrations here at Immaculate.) The way we celebrate together reveals that the *Soul* of our Parish School family is brimming over with goodness, a vitality of life and that this is a Blessed place for our children and families.

As Roman Catholics we see our Parish School as a living Sacrament - a community and family where we all are empowered to grow in knowledge, the love of God and in service to others. As a *Faith based School* our School and Parish Celebrations generate a sense of belonging and self within our children. Authentic celebration energizes the soul of each child to mature in *Confidence, Grace and Competence*.

As we gather for our AGM this year let us be sure to *Ponder and Treasure* that how we celebrate together at our Little Blue School House is essential to the human, social, academic and religious formation of our children. The Celebrations we experience here at our Parish School are but a glimpse of what God and our families desire for our children's future – a future that is not yet but which we glimpse into each time we Celebrate together...

Peace and all Good

Fr. Paul ofm



Note from the Principal

This year, our Catholic schools' theme calls us to "Proclaim Jesus with Loving Hearts," and the students of Immaculate Conception School have been doing just that as they grow in knowledge, love of God and service to others.

A continued area of focus in the classroom has been strengthening students' writing skills. Teachers are also looking ahead to implementing the redesigned B.C. curriculum next year and have been participating in professional development in this area. Students have also participated in a wide variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities in the areas of athletics, academics and the arts.

Nurturing students' faith development permeates everything we do. Whether it is attending mass, preparing to receive the sacraments, or participating in events such as the Living Rosary, the Advent Paraliturgy and the Holy Thursday retreat, everyone at ICS recognizes that this dimension makes us truly special.

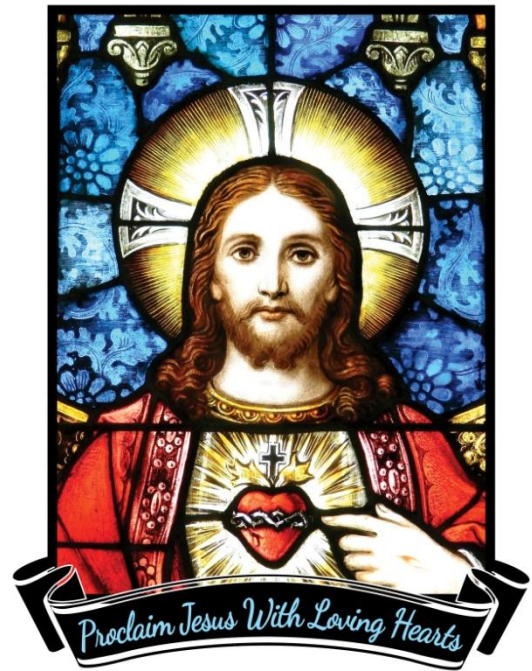
Our students continue to serve others in many ways, both within the school and in the wider community. Relationships are developed through buddy activities, peer helping, and interaction with the seniors of the parish. A variety of outreach projects throughout the year remind us how fortunate we are and that we have an obligation to help those in need.

On behalf of the students and staff, I would like to thank the parent and parish communities for their continued support of our Little Blue School. We are all blessed to be part of this wonderful community.

Yours sincerely,

Colette Foran

Principal



Short note from the PEC Chair

This Annual Report is a summary of a few key areas of our 2015/2016 work. It is our hope that it will provide you with an overall picture of how the school is governed as we strive to meet our vision of a thriving faith community that welcomes every child as a gift from God; growing in knowledge, love of God and service to others.

We (the PEC) do what we do for our precious children - and we could not do it without the support of the entire Parish and School community. We are very grateful for our wise Pastor, Father Paul, our caring Principal, Miss Foran, our dedicated teachers and staff; and our committed parents and guardians.

With much gratitude,
Gina Bestbier
Parish Education Committee, Chair

Introduction to the Parish Education Committee

Together with our Pastor Father Paul Smith and Principal Miss Colette Foran, the Parish Education Committee (PEC) is responsible for the running of the school.

- The Pastor is responsible for faith development and is the Archbishop's Representative.
- The Principal is responsible for the administration and educational component of school community.
- The PEC is responsible for the business operations of the school; it prepares the budget for the operation and maintenance of the school, ensures the school maintains accurate records, and hires teachers and staff with the approval of the Pastor, and more.

The PEC does not work in isolation. ICS is one of 46 parochial schools within the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA). The CISVA governs both elementary and high schools within the Catholic schools in Vancouver. The PEC makes decisions and sets policy to govern the school, providing these decisions fall within the CISVA Board's policies and regulations.

The PEC is composed of active members of Immaculate Conception Parish (not necessarily parents of students) and the Pastor. Members serve two year terms (up to a maximum of four terms).

Elected and appointed PEC members for 2015/2016 school year are:

- G. Bestbier, Chair
- S. Wong, Vice-Chair
- L. Soeller, Treasurer
- R. Tarves, CISVA Delegate
- C. Leong, Secretary & Strategy
- C. Lee, Fundraising & Events
- S. Frost, Grounds & Maintenance

The PEC meets once a month with Father Paul, Miss Foran and a representative from the teaching staff. Mrs Weaver has been the staff representative for the 2015/2016 school year. Meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the school office and kept in a binder in the school office. Parents are always welcome join the meeting as observers. If parents wish to present an issue of concern to the PEC, they may do so with seven day written notice to the Chair.

This report provides a summary of a few key areas of the PEC's work this past year, namely:

- Parent participation
- Statement of operations
- Fundraising and donations
- Ongoing grounds and maintenance
- Strategic Plan update

Parent Participation ~ spirit of community

Parent participation is a cornerstone of our strong, vibrant community and one of the main reasons that our school has so many programs, given its size. Active participation provides positive role modelling for our students, teaching them the value of helping others, as in our motto "service to others". Most importantly, parent participation makes enrollment at Immaculate Conception a family affair.

The Parent Participation Program is an integral part in the operation of our school. The aim of the program is to create a spirit of community among families and staff as we work together to provide the best education for our students.

There are countless opportunities for families to participate in our school community. Examples of these opportunities include ongoing activities such as playground supervision, being a garden buddy or a class parent, baking, fluffing bark mulch, etc or once off events such as helping at the Christmas Fair, Walkathon, Sports Day, Chow & Cha Cha - and much, much more...

This year we continued to streamline the Parent Participation Program to make it run more smoothly and increase parent participation opportunities. We aim to match families' talents with the school's needs and we will continue to solicit input from families to make this program even stronger. We eliminated the dreaded blue slips for tracking hours and implemented Volunteer Spot for signing up for participation opportunities and for logging completed hours.

The parent participation requirement is 40 hours per family per year, yet most of families go above and beyond, with some families logging more than 120 hours! This highlights one of our key strengths as a community, and we can't thank you enough.

THANK YOU!

Extra-curricular programs

Basketball
Badminton
Chess Club
Choir
Cross-country Running
Math Challenge Club
Track and Field
Volleyball

Co-curricular / Enrichment

Cross-country Skiing
Garden Buddies
Music (including guitar program)
The NED show
School & Community Garden
Speech Arts
Spirit Day
Split Second Basketball*
Sports Day*
Science Celebration (including programming from the Planetarium & Science World and school-wide Science Fair)*
Theatre Sports Improv Tales*

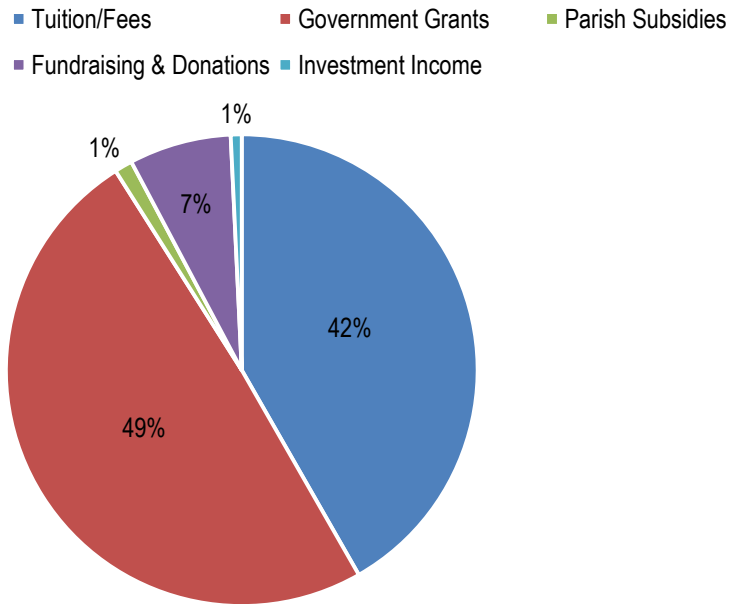
*These programs were funded by a Community Gaming Grant which is administered by the Parent Support Group.

Audited 2014-2015 Statement of Operations

As a CISVA school, we budget to break even each year. If we are fortunate to have an excess in a given year, we have the choice of spending it, or banking it for a future project. The charts below are based on audited 2014/2015 financials for the year end June 30, 2015 (not the 2015/2016 school year as this report was published in April 2016).

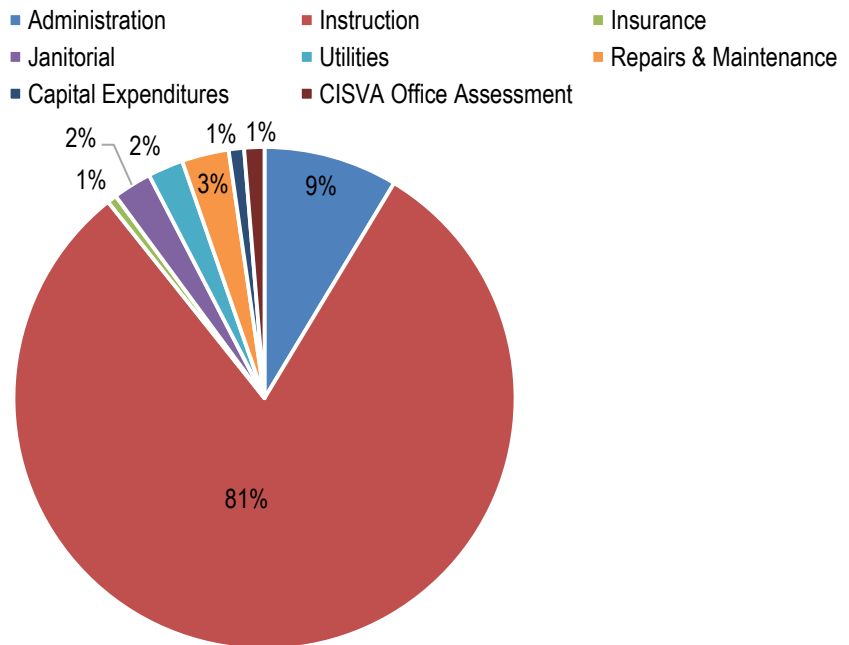
Total Audited Revenue (2014/2015)

Total revenue (2014/2015 audited):
\$1,731,554



Total Audited Expenses (2014/2015)

Total Expense (2014/2015 audited):
\$1,708,776



Outreach Projects at ICS

Giving (of time, talents and treasure) is a year round endeavour at ICS - not just at Christmas. Throughout the year each grade works towards raising funds or goods for various charities, locally and globally.

The following have been (or will be) supported by students and their families in 2015/2016:

Agape Street Ministry

Chalice

BC Children's Hospital

Covenant House

Terry Fox Foundation

The Door Is Open

Syrian & Iraqi Refugee Families coming to our parish

Grounds & Maintenance

Grounds and Maintenance is an essential role of the PEC - to ensure that the school facilities and grounds are safe and functional.

In addition to the routine maintenance (janitorial services, painting, pest control, etc) many necessary upgrades and renovations were done throughout the school in the past year, such as: brand new fence and gate on the north end of the school (and repairs to the existing fencing), repairs to the interior and exterior of the gym due to water overflow damage, installation of safety padding on the north wall of the gym, repair of counter in the gym to make it safer for the children while in the gym, new counter in the school photocopy room, repairs to the school roof, cleaning of gutters on the school and gym roofs (set up of regular maintenance schedule), installation of new mulch for the play structure, reupholstered library chairs and benches.

Fundraising and Donations ~ reflection of a generous community

The ICS community raises funds to supplement the excellent academic, sport and cultural programs we provide for our students and to cover many of the operating costs of our school. Our two biggest annual fundraisers are the Christmas Fair and the Walkathon. Not only do these events raise much needed funds for our school but they help us build a strong and vibrant school community. We also raise funds throughout the year for our many outreach projects.

The popular Christmas Fair, held in late November, is not just a school event, it has become a Dunbar community event. This year it attracted about 500 people and we raised an incredible \$61,387! A truly remarkable effort by all.

The Walkathon will be held later this year (late April) so we do not have numbers to report yet, however we are anticipating an excellent turnout and participation rate as in previous years. Last year we raised \$35,197 - with an amazing 97% family participation. Each year, regardless of how much we raise at the Walkathon we donate \$3,000 to two school-related projects - one in Vietnam and one in Haiti. \$1,500 is donated to an elementary school in Vietnam, which we have been supporting for more than a decade. Another \$1,500 is donated to the Salesian Missions which focus on supporting youth in Haitian schools.

While most of our fundraising money is allocated to covering our operating costs, over the last few years it has allowed us to take on larger projects providing Macbooks, iPads and document cameras (digital overhead projectors) for the students and teachers, upgrading the library (software and furniture), and much needed renovations to the staff room and office. This year upgrades will be made to the gym and to the playground areas.

It is worth noting that occasionally the school also gratefully receives gifts and donations from sponsors, alumni and families. In the last few years, these donations have contributed towards the purchase of computers, building the school garden, setting up a guitar program, providing additional enrichment opportunities for the students such as Vancouver Aquarium Aquavan and upgrading the general facilities. The school is very grateful for the generous support from the school and parish community through the giving of time, talents and financial resources..

Strategic Plan ~ building a thriving community

VISION

We are a thriving Catholic community that as a core ministry welcomes every child as a gift from God; growing in knowledge, love of God and service to others

Key Strategic Imperatives & Goals

1. Nurture Faith Life	2. Increase Engagement	3. Build Capability & Capacity (sustainability)	4. Deepen collaboration and accountability
Catholicity*** Increase level of understanding, commitment & practice	Enrolment* Increase student enrolment to 210	Address fatigue & staffing challenges* Identify & address the causes of staff fatigue (and in other stakeholders)	Effectively address stakeholder concerns* Improved communication, and effectively address stakeholders' concerns
	Aboriginal relationships** Revitalise relationship with and participation by Aboriginal families	Ensure effective Seismic Plan* Meet requirements for an effective Seismic Plan (Nov 2015)	Sustained Leadership* Develop appropriate Succession Plan to ensure sustainable leadership
	Parent Participation*** Increase quantity & quality of ongoing participation by all parents	Operating principles & processes** Develop PEC Operations Manual	Fundraising* Ensure focused and sustainable fundraising

Immediate PEC focus with * high priority **medium priority ***continued focus

2015/2016 Achievements

The above ICS Strategic Plan was established in 2014/15. This year, we have built on each of these areas.

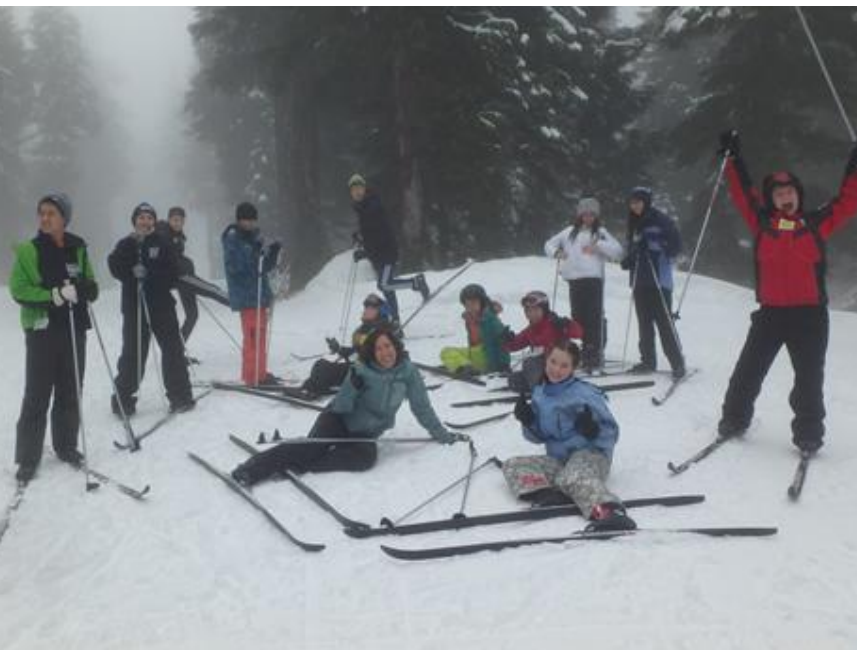
1. Nurture Faith Life	2. Increase Engagement	3. Build Capability & Capacity (sustainability)	4. Deepen collaboration and accountability
Increased use of website to provide information on elements of our Catholic faith	Increased marketing efforts with new advertisements for ICS in the BC Catholic, Dunbar Life, and others.	Commitment to provide more resources dedicated to Learning Assistance.	Implementation has started for the school-wide Positive Behavioural Intervention & Supports (PBIS) program.
Implemented Twitter (@lilblueschool) to connect to wider faith community	Rollout of 'Volunteer Spot' to manage participation – matching needs with availability. Efforts are made to identify jobs that can be completed outside of regular business hours.	A liaison person and committee has been established to address future seismic needs.	Christmas Fair fundraising succession planning was implemented
Strengthen connection between school and parish	New initiative to provide registration at Musqueam each year.	ICS proactively hired an Education Consultant to help prepare our staff for the new 2016/17 BC Curriculum.	

Farewell, Au Revoir ...

We would like to wish our 2016 graduating students the very best for their future and pray that they will carry our motto in their hearts always Today I will grow in knowledge, love of God and service to others.

Our graduating students will be attending numerous schools around the city in 2016/2017, namely: Little Flower Academy, Vancouver College, St. Patrick's Secondary, York House, Crofton House, Magee, Prince of Wales Secondary, Point Grey Mini and Kitsilano Secondary (French Immersion Program).

We also want to thank all the families that are "graduating", some of them leaving us after more than a decade. We will miss you! Your contributions over the years have been invaluable and we are truly grateful...





Immaculate Conception

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